NOTE XIX.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF ACCIPITER FROM LIBERIA.

BY

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During my recent visit to the Leyden Museum I was much interested in examining the fine series of birds'-skins which had been brought home by Mr. Büttikofer and Mr. Stampfli from their expeditions to Liberia.

Amongst other valuable specimens I was particularly attracted by a small Sparrow-Hawk, of which Mr. Büttikofer had preserved three adults, two females and a male. These are identified by him as *Accipiter hartlaubi* of Verreaux [1]), but I saw at once that they were not the same as the bird I had so named in the Catalogue of Birds (Vol. I, p. 150; pl. 6, fig. 2).

Since my return to England I have looked into the matter and have compared one of Mr. Büttikofer's specimens with the example figured in the »Catalogue", and I find that they are quite distinct, the white marks on the centre tail-feathers and the rufous thighs distinguishing the Gaboon bird at once. None of Mr. Büttikofer's specimens have any white spots on the tail-feathers and the thighs are in every one of them grey, or grey with whitish vermiculations. It seems to me, therefore, clear that the Liberian Sparrow-Hawk is new to science and I propose to call it after my excellent colleague in the Leyden Museum

1) Notes Leyd. Mus., 1885, p. 153; 1886, p. 246; 1887, p. 64.

Accipiter büttikoferi, sp. n.

Adult male: General colour above greenish black, with a slaty-grey gloss; upper tail-coverts white, forming a band; wing-coverts like the back; quills blackish, externally like the back, the inner secondaries rather more slaty grey externally; all the quills barred with black on the inner web, which is white for the basal half; tail-feathers black, the two centre ones entirely so, the remainder barred with black on the inner web and barred or notched alternately with greyish white, or pure white nearer the base; crown of head, lores, sides of face, ear-coverts, and cheeks black; throat pure white; sides of neck black, remainder of under surface of body white, freckled with delicate blue-grey, in vermiculations on the lower breast and abdomen; sides of chest uniform blue grey; sides of breast clear delicate vinous; thighs grey, freckled with white; under tail-coverts white; under wing-coverts white; axillaries white, with dusky grey bars; quills below ashy, barred with dusky black and white; bill black, cere, feet and iris orange red.

Total length 9 inches; culmen with cere 0.6; wing 5.9; tail 4.1; tarsus 1.7; middle toe (without claw) 1.0; hind toe 0.5; outer toe 0.6.

The adult female is similar to the male but a little larger. Total length 10.8 inches, culmen 0.8, wing 6.6, tail 4.9, tarsus 1.8.

Hab. Liberia: Soforé Place, Hill Town and Schieffelinsville.

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